



Australian Bureau of Statistics

6291.0.55.001 - Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, Jun 2015

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Summary

Main Features

Data from the monthly Labour Force Survey are released in two stages. The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) are part of the second release, and include detailed data not contained in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) product set, which is released one week earlier.

The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) is released monthly. Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) includes data only collected in February, May, August and November (including industry and occupation).

Since these products are based on the same data as the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) publication, the 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia Explanatory Notes are relevant to both releases.

What's New in the Labour Force

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LABOUR FORCE

CHANGES TO LABOUR FORCE OUTPUTS

This note is essential for all clients using the Labour Force spreadsheets and data cubes.

Commencing with the July 2015 issue of this publication (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001), and the August 2015 issue of the detailed quarterly publication (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003), the ABS plans to publish Labour Force spreadsheets and data cubes in new formats. Any change to this plan will be announced on Friday 31 July at the latest.

These spreadsheets and data cubes will be published in the formats presented in the Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics, October 2014 (cat. no. 6292.0). Attached to the Information Paper is a version of the new format spreadsheets containing data for this publication. This version contains data as at the April 2015 issue of this publication. These spreadsheets can be used to test any processes accessing these datasets. Spreadsheets for the detailed monthly publication (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) containing data as per the April 2015 issue will be added to the Information paper on 14

July. A concordance between the current and new time series identifiers will also be included.

While the format of the outputs will change, this will not introduce any revisions to the original estimates when rounded to the nearest person, other than the spreadsheet tables containing underutilisation data (tables 22 and 23). While testing these tables it was discovered that a small group of seasonal workers were incorrectly counted as underemployed, and therefore also as underutilised. The ending of a seasonal worker's contract (e.g. fruit picker) because the relevant season has concluded is not considered an economic reason and therefore should not be included as underemployed. The revision will impact the quarters since the introduction of the July 2014 questionnaire with underemployment for this period to be revised down by between 1,100 and 5,500 persons in original terms.

In addition to the format changes, the following series are planned to be introduced:

- Monthly underutilisation (original series only until 2017) from the August 2015 issue of this publication.
- The following new items from the August 2015 issue of the detailed quarterly publication (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003):
 - Volume measures of labour underutilisation
 - Leave entitlements
 - Retrenchment
 - Sector of main job (public / private).
- The following new items from the November 2015 issue of the detailed quarterly publication (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003):
 - Educational attainment
 - Educational attendance for the whole civilian population.

A brief article will be released for each of the new quarterly items to assist clients in interpreting the data. A brief article will also be released describing changes to the Status in Employment standard which are planned to take effect from the July 2015 issue.

The new outputs result from a review conducted in 2010-11 of the labour household survey program. The outcomes of the review were announced in 2012 but implementation has been delayed while priority was given to investigations into recent Labour Force results, the annual seasonal reanalysis and comprehensive testing of the system producing the new outputs.

Update on Recommendations 10 and 11 From the Independent Technical Review

UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS 10 AND 11 FROM THE INDEPENDENT TECHNICAL REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The Executive Summary of an independent technical review into the Labour Force Survey

(LFS) and the ABS response to the review's recommendations were released on the ABS website on 9 December 2014. For details see the November 2014 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0). This note provides an update on recommendations 10 and 11 of the review which related to the supplementary survey program and timing of Labour Force releases, respectively.

RECOMMENDATION 10

Recommendation 10 of the review and the ABS's initial response released on 9 December 2014 are:

Recommendation 10: Given the importance of the LFS data and the adverse effect of the associated supplementary survey program on these key economic indicators, the ABS should consider discontinuing the supplementary surveys, or conduct them in a manner that has a negligible impact on the LFS data.

ABS Response: Agree (to consider) and will be included in relevant work plans. Consultation with key stakeholders will be an integral component of the work plan. An update will be provided in mid-2015.

Further to the initial response in December 2014, the ABS has continued the supplementary survey program on the basis that:

- The corrections introduced into the seasonal adjustment process are an effective means of removing the impact of supplementary surveys from the seasonally adjusted and trend labour force estimates.
- The information provided by the supplementary surveys is important for assessing a range of labour market policies and currently there is no alternative cost-effective method for obtaining this information.
- The ABS is developing a proposal for a new Australian Population Survey and, as part of this development, will consider alternative means of collecting this information.
- A change to be made to one supplementary survey will minimise the likelihood of it having an unexpected impact on the labour force series. This is explained below.

Following the changes to the Labour Force Survey introduced from February 2014, only two of the current supplementary surveys have been identified as having a potential impact on labour force estimates. These surveys are:

- Characteristics of Employment which is conducted each August from 2014, and
- Participation, Job search and Mobility which is conducted each February from 2015.

Each of these supplementary surveys consist of their own core set of questions which will be repeated each year, and two additional modules with different questions relating to the topics covered by the supplementary survey. These modules are referred to as modules A and B and it was planned that they would be conducted in alternating years. The first iteration of each supplementary survey (in August 2014 and February 2015, respectively) comprised each survey's core set of questions and the A module. Before proceeding with the second iteration of the supplementary surveys the ABS considered the potential impact on the labour force series of replacing the A module with the B module.

Characteristics of Employment

The August 2014 Characteristics of Employment supplementary survey had an identifiable but not large impact on the labour force series, and this impact was removed by the correction methodology. As both the A and B modules contain related content and target similar population groups, it is anticipated that the Characteristics of Employment supplementary survey with module B will have a similar minimal impact on the labour force estimates as the survey with module A and any impact can be removed through the prevailing ABS correction methodology. On this basis the August 2015 Characteristics of Employment supplementary survey will retain its core set of questions and replace module A with module B as planned.

Participation, Job search and Mobility

The February 2015 Participation, Job search and Mobility supplementary survey with module A had a significantly greater impact on the labour force series than the Characteristics of Employment supplementary survey. Unlike the two Characteristics of Employment modules, the Participation, Job search and Mobility module A and module B contain significantly different content, target different population groups and contain a significantly different number of questions. On this basis it is likely that the impact on the labour force estimates of the Participation, Job search and Mobility supplementary survey with module B will differ significantly from the impact observed with module A. For this reason and as the module A content is considered more important to stakeholders, the February 2016 Participation, Job search and Mobility supplementary survey will retain its core set of questions but continue with module A rather than change to module B. Any impact can be removed through the prevailing ABS correction methodology.

RECOMMENDATION 11

Recommendation 11 of the review and the ABS's initial response released on 9 December 2014 are:

Recommendation 11: The LFS processing and publication cycle should be closely monitored to determine whether or not it is necessary to delay publishing LFS data until early in the week following the current timetable on an ongoing basis or at least when changes are being made to the LFS. In particular, delaying the publication should be considered if any significant change is to be implemented.

ABS Response: Agree and will be included in relevant work plans in relation to future changes to the LFS. Needs further consideration, including consultation where appropriate, in relation to any ongoing change to the LFS publication cycle. An update will be provided in mid-2015.

To progress this issue, the ABS will prepare a discussion paper to consider the implications of an ongoing delay to the Labour Force releases. The paper will consider:

- The potential benefits in data quality that may arise from a delay (e.g. would other indicators be available to assist in quality assuring the labour force series).
- The extent that current risks to the release due to unexpected system or other issues would be reduced by a delay.
- If the detailed monthly series and quarterly series would also need to be delayed a week, or if they could be released at the same time as the main monthly publication.

The ABS will develop the above discussion paper over the next month and will provide it to

members of the Labour Statistics Advisory Group in September 2015. If other stakeholders would like to receive a copy of the discussion paper please send an email to labourforce@abs.gov.au.

Assessing volatility in the Labour Force series

ASSESSING VOLATILITY IN THE LABOUR FORCE SERIES

INTRODUCTION

Over the last 18 months the ABS has been implementing the Labour Force Survey change program. The questionnaire has been modified and the supplementary surveys program has been combined. This article assesses the level of volatility during the period of the Labour Force change program implementation and makes comparisons with the historical labour force series.

From July to September 2014 there was a high level of volatility in the Labour Force estimates. These results were the subject of an independent review (McCarthy Review). The Review concluded that the volatility was largely due to changes made to the supplementary survey program. The 'Supplementary Survey' effect was subsequently removed from the the seasonally adjusted series in October 2014. A revised set of estimates were published in the October issue of 6202.0.

The volatility assessment was undertaken by the ABS using estimates from the beginning of the series in February 1978 up to and including March 2015. To better assess how level of volatility has changed over time this analysis has been undertaken using 12 month rolling windows rather than looking at individual month to month movements. The methods used in the analysis have drawn on similar methods undertaken by StatsCanada and the resulting conclusions have been reviewed and validated by Professor Rob Hyndman from Monash University.

The volatility assessment found, for key national seasonally adjusted estimates (employed persons, unemployed persons and the unemployment rate), the current level of volatility, following the revisions published in the October 2014 issue of 6202.0, is below historical averages. While this analysis demonstrates that the current level of volatility is below historical averages, the ABS will continue to work on developing methods to improve the quality and coherence of published labour market information.

ASSESSMENT OF VOLATILITY

The volatility assessment considered:

- Variation in the month-to-month change in the seasonally adjusted series - the standard deviations of monthly changes in the series were produced for 12 month rolling windows.
- The difference each month between the seasonally adjusted and trend series - the standard deviations of the percentage difference between the seasonally adjusted and trend estimates were produced for 12 month rolling windows.
- The difference each month between the original and trend series - the standard deviations of the percentage difference between the original and trend estimates were produced for 12 month rolling windows.

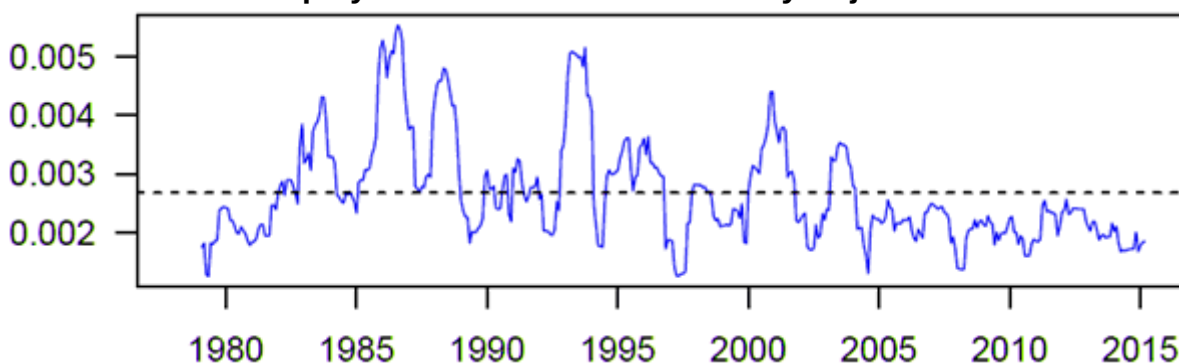
In addition, an outlier analysis was conducted for each of these three measures of volatility by identifying extreme changes or observations that fall outside an approximate 95 per cent confidence interval.

The level of volatility was assessed at the national and state levels by males and females, for the number employed (total, full-time and part-time), number unemployed and the unemployment rate. (The details of which are in the full report). The assessment concluded that for national estimates in seasonally adjusted terms:

- for employed persons the current level of volatility has been below the historical average for more than a decade,
- for unemployed persons and the unemployment rate, the levels of volatility have dropped below their respective historical averages in the most recent years, following increased volatility around the time of the global financial crisis.

The Australia total employed chart presents the 12-month rolling window standard deviation of the percentage monthly change in the number of employed persons in Australia. The dotted line represents the average standard deviation over the time series. The solid line remaining below the dotted line demonstrates the lower level of volatility over the last ten years.

12-month Moving Average Standard Deviation of Monthly % Change Australia Employed Persons Total Seasonally Adjusted



The full report, which also includes consideration of the volatility of major State estimates, is available on request by emailing labourforce@abs.gov.au.

Article Archive

This section provides an archive of articles and analysis published in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), promoting the effective use of labour force statistics. Articles are sorted by publication date.

Articles on labour related topics are also available in Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0) and Australian Social Trends (cat. no. 4102.0).

Labour Force Survey Archive

What's New in the Labour Force	April 2015
What's New in the Labour Force	March 2015
Annual Seasonal Reanalysis	March 2015
Update on Recommendations from the Independent Technical Review	March 2015
What's new in the Labour Force	February 2015
Online Collection in the Labour Force Survey	February 2015
Rebenchmarking Labour Force Estimates	February 2015
What's new in the Labour force	January 2015
What's new in the Labour force	December 2014
Independent Technical Review into the Labour Force Survey and ABS Response	November 2014
What's new in the Labour force	November 2014
Removing the effect of Supplementary Surveys from seasonally adjusted estimates	October 2014
Changes in this and upcoming labour force issues	September 2014
Changes in this and upcoming labour force issues	August 2014
What's new in the Labour force	July 2014
What's new in the Labour force	June 2014
What's new in the Labour force	May 2014
What's new in the Labour force	February 2014
Rebenchmarking Labour Force Estimates to the 2011 Census of Population and Housing	January 2014
What's new in the Labour force	December 2013
Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics	December 2013
What's new in the Labour Force	November 2013
Understanding full-time/part-time status in the Labour Force Survey	September 2013
What's new in the Labour Force	September 2013
Fact sheet did you know - Underemployment	June 2013
What's new in the Labour Force	June 2013
New Labour Force Sample Design	May 2013
Annual Seasonal Reanalysis	May 2013
What's new in Labour Force	May 2013
Transition to online collection of the Labour Force Survey	April 2013
What's new in Labour Force	April 2013
Estimating Jobs in the Australian Labour Market	February 2013
Forthcoming improvements to the content of the Labour Force and Labour Supplementary Surveys	January 2013
What's new in Labour Force	January 2013
Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics	January 2013
Rebenchmarking of Labour Force Series	November 2012
Upcoming changes to the Labour Force Survey	July 2012
Labour Household Surveys content review and the Labour Force Survey	June 2012
Employment and mining in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia	May 2012
ABS Response to recent concerns expressed about employment estimates	April 2012
Population Benchmarks and Labour Force Survey	April 2012
Annual Seasonal Reanalysis	March 2012
Exploring Labour Force Data on joblessness	February 2012
Employment level estimates versus employment to population explained	January 2012

About this Release

A range of Excel spreadsheets and SuperTABLE datacubes. The monthly spreadsheets contain broad level data covering all the major items of the Labour Force Survey in time series format, including seasonally adjusted and trend estimates. The monthly datacubes contain more detailed and cross classified original data than the spreadsheets.

Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes

Data from the monthly Labour Force Survey are released in two stages. The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) are part of the second release, and include detailed data not contained in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) product set, which is released one week earlier.

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Quality Declaration - Summary

QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Labour Force statistics are compiled from the Labour Force Survey which is conducted each month throughout Australia as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) household survey program. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

RELEVANCE

The Labour Force Survey provides monthly information about the labour market activity of

Australia's resident civilian population aged 15 years and over. The Labour Force Survey is designed to primarily provide estimates of employment and unemployment for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

TIMELINESS

The Labour Force Survey enumeration begins on the Sunday between the 5th and 11th of the month, except for the Christmas and New Year holiday period. In December enumerations starts between the 3rd and 9th (4 weeks after November enumeration begins). In January enumeration starts between the 7th and 13th (5 weeks after December enumeration begins).

Key estimates from the Labour Force Survey are published in two stages. The first, Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), is released 32 days after the commencement of enumeration for the month, with the exception of estimates for December which are published 39 days after the commencement of enumeration.

The second stage includes detailed data that were not part of the first stage and are published in Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003). The second stage is released 7 days after the first stage.

ACCURACY

The Labour Force Survey is based on a sample of private dwellings (approximately 26,000 houses, flats etc) and non-private dwellings, such as hotels and motels. The sample covers about 0.32% of the Australian civilian population aged 15 years or over. The Labour Force Survey is designed primarily to provide estimates of key labour force statistics for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: non-sampling error and sampling error.

Non-sampling error arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. Non-sampling error also arises because information cannot be obtained from all persons selected in the survey. The Labour Force Survey receives a high level of cooperation, with an average response rate for the last year being 94%.

Sampling error occurs because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all dwellings in the survey is given by the standard error. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

Standard errors of key estimates and movements since the previous month are available in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0). The standard error of other estimates and movements may be calculated by using the spreadsheet contained in Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

COHERENCE

The ABS has been conducting the Labour Force Survey each month since February 1978. While seeking to provide a high degree of consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey, sound survey practice requires careful and continuing maintenance and development to maintain the integrity of the data and the efficiency of the collection.

The changes which have been made to the Labour Force Survey have included changes in sampling methods, estimation methods, concepts, data item definitions, classifications, and time series analysis techniques. In introducing these changes the ABS has generally revised previous estimates to ensure consistency and coherence with current estimates. For a full list of changes made to the Labour Force Survey see Chapter 20 in Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

INTERPRETABILITY

The key estimates from the Labour Force Survey are available as original, seasonally adjusted and trend series. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove the irregular influences which may be present and therefore month-to-month movements may not be reliable indicators of underlying behaviour. To assist in interpreting the underlying behaviour, the ABS produces the trend series by smoothing the seasonally adjusted series to reduce the impact of the irregular component. For further information, see A Guide to Interpreting Time Series - Monitoring Trends (cat. no. 1349.0).

Further information on the terminology and other technical aspects associated with statistics from the Labour Force Survey can be found in the publication Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), which contains detailed Explanatory Notes, Standard Error information and a Glossary.

ACCESSIBILITY

Please see the Related Information tab for the list of products that are available from this collection.

Time Series Spreadsheet (I-Note) - Time Series Spreadsheet

Data relating to unemployed persons looking for first full-time job is not available from July 2014. As highlighted in the Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics (cat. no. 6292.0), duration of unemployment since last full-time job is no longer collected in the Labour Force Survey questionnaire from July 2014. As this information is used, in part, to identify whether a currently unemployed person has been employed full-time in the past, unemployed persons looking for first full-time job is no longer able to be derived on a comparable basis and is therefore not available. This specific series had been highlighted to be removed with the introduction of new labour force outputs, but this has been brought forward.

Time Series Spreadsheet (I-Note) - Time Series Spreadsheet

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Time Series Spreadsheet (I-Note) - Time Series Spreadsheet

As part of the Labour Force change program the ABS has made changes to the standard for Status in Employment and the new questionnaire introduced in July no longer allows persons to be classified according to the old standard. Specifically it is no longer possible to classify persons who work for a commission without a retainer on a consistent basis with the old questionnaire. The changes to the questionnaire came into effect from July 2014, however the changes to the output will not be incorporated until the release of new Labour Force outputs. The main changes to the standard involve new groups for Owners/Managers of Incorporated Enterprises, and a small change to the definition of employees to include persons paid by commission without a retainer. Previously persons working for a commission without a retainer were classified as either Employers or Own Account Workers. With the change to the questionnaire, it is not possible to assign this group to the appropriate category in the current standard due to questionnaire sequencing. Persons who worked for a commission without a retainer have been classified to the appropriate category in the current standard based on the distribution in the corresponding month in 2013. When the first lot of new content is introduced the entire series will be revised to be consistent with the revised standard back to 1991.

Time Series Spreadsheet (I-Note) - Time Series Spreadsheet

April 2015 saw a proportionally larger than usual move towards employed persons working less than 35 hours during the reference period. This is likely to be because of the overlap of the Easter holiday period with the April survey reference period, meaning respondents whose usual hours worked were greater than 35 hours per week actually worked less than this amount during the reference period. The timing of Easter is adjusted for as part of the estimation of seasonally adjusted aggregate monthly hours worked, which showed an increase of 1.1% during April 2015.

Time Series Spreadsheet (I-Note) - Time Series Spreadsheet

Due to the flooding in Queensland in January 2011, the relative standard errors for January 2011 will vary across regions and will be higher than normal in some regions. The RSEs for the Darling Downs-South West and Ipswich City Statistical Regions are expected to be approximately 50% higher, while the RSEs for the Brisbane City Inner Ring Statistical Region will increase by approximately 25%. The Brisbane City Outer Ring, West Moreton and Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West Statistical Regions will have RSEs approximately 10% higher. All other regions have minimal differences. However from February 2011, the data returns to normal. Refer to the article Impact of the floods on the Labour Force Survey in January 2011 for more information.

The new labour force sample was phased-in over four months from May to August 2013. See the article on page 10 of the May 2013 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for more information. During phase in of the new sample, standard errors associated with key labour force data were expected to increase by approximately 10% at a national level, however increased standard errors and variability in the estimates may be more evident in detailed regional data during this time.

Data Cubes (I-Note) - Data Cubes

Due to the flooding in Queensland in January 2011, the relative standard errors for January 2011 will vary across regions and will be higher than normal in some regions. The RSEs for the Darling Downs-South West and Ipswich City Statistical Regions are expected to be approximately 50% higher, while the RSEs for the Brisbane City Inner Ring Statistical Region will increase by approximately 25%. The Brisbane City Outer Ring, West Moreton and Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West Statistical Regions will have RSEs approximately 10% higher. All other regions have minimal differences. However from February 2011, the data returns to normal. Refer to the article Impact of the floods on the Labour Force Survey in January 2011 for more information.

The new labour force sample was phased-in over four months from May to August 2013. See the article on page 10 of the May 2013 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for more information. During phase in of the new sample, standard errors

associated with key labour force data were expected to increase by approximately 10% at a national level, however increased standard errors and variability in the estimates may be more evident in detailed regional data during this time.

Data Cubes (I-Note) - Data Cubes

Due to the flooding in Queensland in January 2011, the relative standard errors for January 2011 will vary across regions and will be higher than normal in some regions. The RSEs for the Darling Downs-South West and Ipswich City Statistical Regions are expected to be approximately 50% higher, while the RSEs for the Brisbane City Inner Ring Statistical Region will increase by approximately 25%. The Brisbane City Outer Ring, West Moreton and Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West Statistical Regions will have RSEs approximately 10% higher. All other regions have minimal differences. However from February 2011, the data returns to normal. Refer to the article Impact of the floods on the Labour Force Survey in January 2011 for more information.

The new labour force sample was phased-in over four months from May to August 2013. See the article on page 10 of the May 2013 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for more information. During phase in of the new sample, standard errors associated with key labour force data were expected to increase by approximately 10% at a national level, however increased standard errors and variability in the estimates may be more evident in detailed regional data during this time.

Standard Errors

Estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are based on information collected from people in a sample of dwellings, rather than the entire population. Hence the estimates produced may differ from those that would have been produced if the entire population had been included in the survey. The most common measure of the likely difference (or 'sampling error') is the **standard error** (SE).

The ABS considers that estimates with a relative standard error of 25% or more may be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

To determine if an item has a relative standard error of 25% or more, in SuperTABLE, right click in the centre of the table, select annotate cells - standard annotations, and select 'Annotate RSE cut-off values'.

To indicate those cells in spreadsheets with a relative standard error of 25% or more, annotations have been applied prior to dissemination.

In addition, the tables below have been supplied to show estimates at which the relative standard error is 25%. Estimates of the size indicated in the tables, or smaller, are considered to be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

Due to the January 2011 flooding in Queensland the relative standard errors for January 2011 will be higher than normal in some regions, therefore for Queensland the estimates at which the relative standard error is 25% will be higher than they appear in the tables below. However from February, the data returns to normal.

The new labour force sample was phased-in over four months from May to August 2013. During phase in of the new sample, standard errors associated with key labour force data were expected to increase by approximately 10% at a national level, however increased standard errors and variability in the estimates may be more evident in detailed regional data during this time.

The RSEs for July 2013 (50% old sample, 50% new sample) and onwards will be subject to revisions in the future, as more information is known about the new sample after it has been introduced.

Additional information on how standard errors for LFS estimates are produced is available in Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

State	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Aust
Employed									
Feb-78 — Sep-82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.5
Oct-82 — Aug-87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep-87 — Feb-89	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Mar-89 — Aug-92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	2.0	1.4	3.5
Sep-92 — Aug-97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep-97 — Sep-98	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Oct-98 — Feb-03	5.9	3.1	3.7	2.5	2.2	1.1	1.3	0.9	5.5
Mar-03 — Oct-07	6.3	3.0	4.4	2.3	2.5	1.3	1.5	1.1	6.6
Nov-07	6.2	3.2	4.3	2.3	2.5	1.3	1.4	1.1	6.4
Dec-07	6.1	3.4	4.3	2.3	2.6	1.3	1.3	1.1	6.2
Jan-08	6.0	3.6	4.2	2.3	2.6	1.3	1.3	1.2	6.0
Feb-08	5.9	3.8	4.2	2.4	2.7	1.3	1.2	1.2	5.9
Mar-08	5.9	4.1	4.2	2.4	3.0	1.2	1.1	1.2	5.7
Apr-08	5.8	4.4	4.4	2.5	3.1	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.6
May-08	5.7	4.7	4.3	2.5	3.1	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.4
Jun-08	5.5	4.9	4.3	2.5	3.3	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.3
Jul-08 — Aug-09	6.9	6.1	5.3	3.1	4.0	1.5	1.2	1.6	7.4
Sep-09	6.5	5.8	5.0	2.9	3.8	1.5	1.1	1.5	7.0
Oct-09	6.1	5.5	4.7	2.8	3.6	1.4	1.0	1.4	6.5
Nov-09	5.8	5.2	4.5	2.6	3.4	1.3	1.0	1.4	6.2
Dec-09 — Jun-13	5.5	4.9	4.3	2.5	3.3	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.8
Jul-13 — Jan-14	7.7	3.8	5.5	2.7	3.8	1.4	0.3	1.7	7.8
Feb-14 onwards	7.9	3.9	5.6	2.7	3.8	1.4	0.3	1.7	7.9
Unemployed									
Feb-78 — Sep-82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.5
Oct-82 — Aug-87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep-87 — Feb-89	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Mar-89 — Aug-92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	2.0	1.4	3.5
Sep-92 — Aug-97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep-97 — Sep-98	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Oct-98 — Feb-03	5.7	5.7	4.5	2.6	3.3	1.3	3.2	1.4	4.9
Mar-03 — Oct-07	6.0	5.4	4.9	2.9	3.6	1.6	2.2	1.6	5.2
Nov-07	6.1	5.4	5.0	2.9	3.7	1.6	2.1	1.7	5.2
Dec-07	6.2	5.5	5.0	2.9	3.8	1.7	1.9	1.7	5.2
Jan-08	6.3	5.6	5.0	3.0	4.0	1.7	1.8	1.8	5.2
Feb-08	6.4	5.7	5.1	3.0	4.1	1.7	1.7	1.8	5.1
Mar-08	6.7	5.7	5.2	3.1	4.5	1.8	1.6	1.9	5.1

Apr-08	6.8	5.9	5.5	3.2	4.6	1.9	1.5	1.9	5.2
May-08	6.9	6.0	5.5	3.3	4.8	1.9	1.4	2.0	5.1
Jun-08	7.1	6.1	5.6	3.3	5.0	1.9	1.4	2.1	5.1
Jul-08 — Aug-09	9.3	8.0	7.4	4.4	6.6	2.5	1.8	2.8	7.3
Sep-09	8.7	7.5	6.8	4.1	6.1	2.4	1.6	2.5	6.8
Oct-09	8.1	7.0	6.4	3.8	5.7	2.2	1.5	2.4	6.4
Nov-09	7.5	6.5	6.0	3.5	5.3	2.1	1.5	2.2	6.0
Dec-09 — Jun-13	7.1	6.1	5.6	3.3	5.0	1.9	1.4	2.1	5.7
Jul-13 — Jan-14	7.3	6.6	8.4	3.7	5.8	1.7	1.3	2.2	7.1
Feb-14 onwards	7.4	6.7	8.6	3.8	5.9	1.8	1.3	2.3	7.3

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Feb-78 — Sep-82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.5
Oct-82 — Aug-87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep-87 — Feb-89	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Mar-89 — Aug-92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	2.0	1.4	3.5
Sep-92 — Aug-97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep-97 — Sep-98	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Oct-98 — Feb-03	6.4	3.7	4.1	3.2	2.7	1.2	1.4	1.1	6.0
Mar-03 — Oct-07	7.8	3.7	5.2	3.0	3.2	1.5	2.0	1.3	7.3
Nov-07	7.6	3.9	5.1	3.0	3.2	1.5	1.8	1.3	7.0
Dec-07	7.4	4.1	5.1	3.0	3.3	1.5	1.7	1.4	6.8
Jan-08	7.3	4.4	5.0	3.0	3.4	1.5	1.6	1.4	6.6
Feb-08	7.1	4.7	5.0	3.1	3.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	6.3
Mar-08	7.1	5.0	4.9	3.1	3.8	1.5	1.3	1.5	6.2
Apr-08	7.0	5.4	5.3	3.2	3.9	1.5	1.2	1.5	6.0
May-08	6.8	5.7	5.2	3.2	4.0	1.5	1.1	1.6	5.8
Jun-08	6.6	6.0	5.2	3.2	4.1	1.5	1.1	1.6	5.6
Jul-08 — Aug-09	8.3	7.6	6.5	4.0	5.2	1.8	1.4	2.0	8.0
Sep-09	7.8	7.2	6.1	3.7	4.9	1.7	1.3	1.9	7.4
Oct-09	7.3	6.7	5.8	3.5	4.6	1.6	1.2	1.8	6.9
Nov-09	6.9	6.4	5.4	3.3	4.4	1.6	1.2	1.7	6.5
Dec-09 — Jun-13	6.6	6.0	5.2	3.2	4.1	1.5	1.1	1.6	6.2
Jul-13 — Jan-14	8.4	4.4	9.8	3.6	4.5	1.8	0.7	2.5	9.0
Feb-14 onwards	8.5	4.5	9.9	3.7	4.6	1.8	0.8	2.5	9.1

Greater Capital City Statistical Areas	Feb-78 — Sep-82	Oct-82 — Aug-87	Sep-87 — Feb-89	Mar-89 — Aug-92	Sep-92 — Aug-97	Sep-97 — Oct-98 Sep-98	Oct-98 — Feb-03
Greater Sydney	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	5.3	5.7	5.8
Rest of NSW	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	5.3	5.7	5.8
Greater Melbourne	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	3.3
Rest of Victoria	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.3	3.2
Greater Brisbane	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.7	3.4
Rest of Queensland	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.6	4.3	3.6
Greater Adelaide	2.5	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.7
Rest of South Australia	2.5	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.5
Greater Perth	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.6	2.3
Rest of Western Australia	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.8	2.2
Greater Hobart	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.9
Rest of Tasmania	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1

	Mar-03 —	Mar-08 —	Jul-08 — Oct-09	Nov-09 —	Jul-13 — Jan-14	Feb-14 onwards
	Feb-08	Jun-08		Jun-13		
Greater Sydney	6.5	5.7	7.1	5.7	7.6	7.7
Rest of NSW	6.4	5.6	7.0	5.6	7.5	7.6
Greater Melbourne	3.2	5.1	6.4	5.1	4.0	4.0
Rest of Victoria	3.1	5.0	6.3	5.0	3.9	3.9
Greater Brisbane	4.1	4.0	5.0	4.0	5.9	6.0
Rest of Queensland	4.4	4.3	5.4	4.3	6.3	6.4
Greater Adelaide	2.5	2.7	3.4	2.7	3.0	3.0
Rest of South Australia	2.4	2.5	3.1	2.5	2.8	2.8
Greater Perth	2.6	3.5	4.3	3.5	3.9	4.0
Rest of Western Australia	2.5	3.3	4.1	3.3	3.7	3.8
Greater Hobart	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.3
Rest of Tasmania	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.5

Statistical Area Level 4 Regions	4 Oct-98 —	Mar-03 —	Mar-08 —	Jul-08 —	Nov-09 —	Jul-13 —	Feb-14 onwards
	Feb-03	Feb-08	Jun-08	Oct-09	Jun-13	Jan-14	
Central Coast	7.4	8.5	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.2	10.4
Sydney - Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury	7.2	8.3	7.0	9.2	7.0	10.0	10.2
Sydney - Blacktown	7.3	8.3	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.0	10.2
Sydney - City and Inner South	8.5	9.7	8.3	10.8	8.3	11.7	11.9
Sydney - Eastern Suburbs	9.6	11.0	9.3	12.2	9.3	13.1	13.4
Sydney - Inner South West	7.3	8.4	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.1	10.3
Sydney - Inner West	7.7	8.8	7.5	9.8	7.5	10.6	10.8
Sydney - North Sydney and Hornsby	7.6	8.6	7.3	9.6	7.3	10.4	10.6
Sydney - Northern Beaches	7.8	8.9	7.6	9.9	7.6	10.7	10.9
Sydney - Outer South West	7.3	8.4	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.1	10.3
Sydney - Outer West and Blue Mountains	7.3	8.3	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.0	10.2
Sydney - Parramatta	7.8	8.9	7.6	10.0	7.6	10.8	11.0
Sydney - Ryde	7.7	8.8	7.5	9.8	7.5	10.6	10.8
Sydney - South West	7.5	8.6	7.3	9.6	7.3	10.4	10.6
Sydney - Sutherland	7.4	8.4	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.1	10.3
Capital Region	7.2	8.2	7.0	9.2	7.0	9.9	10.1
Central West	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Coffs Harbour - Grafton	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Far West and Orana	7.4	8.4	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.1	10.3
Hunter Valley exc Newcastle	7.1	8.1	6.9	9.0	6.9	9.8	10.0
Illawarra	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Mid North Coast	7.5	8.6	7.3	9.6	7.3	10.3	10.6
Murray	7.6	8.6	7.4	9.6	7.4	10.4	10.6
New England and North West	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7

Newcastle and Lake Macquarie	7.1	8.1	6.9	9.0	6.9	9.8	9.9
Richmond - Tweed	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Riverina	7.6	8.6	7.4	9.6	7.4	10.4	10.6
Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven	9.0	10.3	8.7	11.4	8.7	12.3	12.6
Melbourne - Inner	4.1	3.9	7.2	9.4	7.2	5.2	5.3
Melbourne - Inner East	3.6	3.4	6.2	8.2	6.2	4.5	4.6
Melbourne - Inner South	3.7	3.5	6.4	8.4	6.4	4.7	4.8
Melbourne - North East	3.8	3.6	6.6	8.6	6.6	4.8	4.9
Melbourne - North West	3.7	3.6	6.5	8.6	6.5	4.7	4.8
Melbourne - Outer East	3.8	3.6	6.6	8.7	6.6	4.8	4.9
Melbourne - South East	3.6	3.4	6.3	8.3	6.3	4.6	4.7
Melbourne - West	3.5	3.4	6.1	8.1	6.1	4.4	4.5
Mornington Peninsula	3.6	3.5	6.4	8.3	6.4	4.6	4.7
Ballarat	4.0	3.8	6.9	9.1	6.9	5.0	5.1
Bendigo	3.8	3.7	6.7	8.8	6.7	4.9	5.0
Geelong	3.7	3.5	6.5	8.5	6.5	4.7	4.8
Hume	4.3	4.1	7.4	9.7	7.4	5.4	5.5
Latrobe - Gippsland	4.1	3.9	7.2	9.4	7.2	5.2	5.3
North West	3.9	3.7	6.8	8.9	6.8	4.9	5.0
Shepparton	4.3	4.1	7.4	9.7	7.4	5.4	5.5
Warrnambool and South West	3.7	3.5	6.5	8.5	6.5	4.7	4.8
Brisbane - East	4.1	5.1	5.1	6.7	5.1	8.1	8.2
Brisbane - North	4.1	5.2	5.1	6.7	5.1	8.1	8.3
Brisbane - South	4.2	5.2	5.2	6.8	5.2	8.2	8.4
Brisbane - West	4.1	5.2	5.1	6.7	5.1	8.2	8.3
Brisbane Inner City	4.2	5.3	5.3	6.9	5.3	8.4	8.6
Ipswich	4.0	5.0	5.0	6.5	5.0	7.9	8.1
Logan - Beaudesert	4.3	5.4	5.3	7.0	5.3	8.4	8.6
Moreton Bay - North	3.9	4.9	4.8	6.4	4.8	7.7	7.9
Moreton Bay - South	3.9	4.9	4.8	6.3	4.8	7.7	7.9
Cairns	4.9	6.2	6.1	8.0	6.1	9.7	9.9
Darling Downs - Maranoa	4.6	5.8	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.1	9.3
Fitzroy	4.2	5.3	5.2	6.9	5.2	8.3	8.5
Gold Coast	4.3	5.5	5.4	7.1	5.4	8.6	8.7
Mackay	4.2	5.3	5.2	6.9	5.2	8.3	8.5
Queensland - Outback	4.7	5.9	5.8	7.6	5.8	9.2	9.4
Sunshine Coast	4.3	5.4	5.3	7.0	5.3	8.5	8.7
Toowoomba	4.6	5.8	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.0	9.2
Townsville	4.7	5.9	5.8	7.6	5.8	9.2	9.4
Wide Bay	4.6	5.8	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.0	9.2
Adelaide - Central and Hills	3.3	3.1	3.3	4.3	3.3	3.7	3.8
Adelaide - North	3.3	3.0	3.3	4.3	3.3	3.7	3.8
Adelaide - South	3.4	3.1	3.4	4.4	3.4	3.8	3.9
Adelaide - West	3.7	3.4	3.7	4.8	3.7	4.1	4.2
Barossa - Yorke - Mid North	3.5	3.2	3.5	4.5	3.5	3.9	4.0
South Australia - Outback	3.7	3.4	3.7	4.8	3.7	4.1	4.2

South Australia - South East	3.1	2.8	3.1	4.0	3.1	3.5	3.5
Mandurah	2.4	2.8	4.0	5.2	4.0	4.6	4.7
Perth - Inner	3.1	3.5	4.9	6.5	4.9	5.8	5.9
Perth - North East	2.9	3.3	4.6	6.1	4.6	5.4	5.5
Perth - North West	2.8	3.2	4.5	5.9	4.5	5.2	5.3
Perth - South East	2.9	3.3	4.7	6.1	4.7	5.5	5.6
Perth - South West	2.7	3.1	4.3	5.7	4.3	5.0	5.1
Bunbury	2.4	2.8	4.0	5.2	4.0	4.6	4.7
Western Australia - Outback	2.8	3.3	4.6	6.0	4.6	5.4	5.5
Western Australia - Wheat Belt	2.6	3.0	4.2	5.5	4.2	4.9	5.0
Greater Hobart	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.3
Launceston and North East	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.9	1.5	1.7	1.8
Tasmania - South East	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.4	1.9	2.2	2.2
Tasmania - West and North West	1.3	1.6	1.6	2.0	1.6	1.8	1.8
Darwin	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.9
Northern Territory - Outback	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.9

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